

REMARKS

In response to the official action dated July 8, 2008, Applicant has filed a Request for Continuing Examination along with a request for a three month extension of time thereby extending the due date until January 8, 2009.

The problem tackled by the inventor is to provide a downhill ski with high flexibility but which, at the same time, guarantees a good and continuous adherence to the ground.

This latter feature is the result of a good distribution of the reaction load, all along the lateral edge, when the ski is at an angle to the ground, i.e. when the skier is going along a curve, so that the ski does not adhere to the ground flatly but along the edge of the ski and counterflexes, thus assuming an elastic deformation with a concavity upwards.

A great flexibility is a required feature of a ski, as it allows the ski to adapt to the ground and provides facility to slide and to take curves. However, in a traditional ski, flexibility inevitably gives rise to excessive flexional deformation, which causes separation of its terminal parts from the ground, especially of the front shovel portion, thus causing weak lateral adhesion, stability and precision in the curve. On the contrary a ski with high stiffness, has a good lateral adhesion and a good precision, but has little, manoeuvrability (is difficult on the curve), weak adaptability to the ground and little slidability.

Up to now in the central part of the ski a plate has been applied, which is connected with its end to the ski and has the function of receiving the skiboot and distributing the weight applied by the skier. However this plate acts only on the central part of the ski.

Aim of the present invention is to reconcile these contrasting requirements and to obtain a ski, which is very flexible and therefore compliable with flexional deformation, but at the same time capable of adhering continuously to the ground, over all its length.

Experimental tests carried out by the inventor have, in fact, proved that a better entry into the curve, a greater adherence to the ground, a more reliable lateral adhesion and an improved stability and slidability can be obtained by causing the ski elastically deformed to take on a configuration similar to an elliptical arc, so that the elastic counter-flexional deformation increasingly involves the ski from the central part to the shovel portion.

To obtain this result the inventor produced a superstructure applied to the ski in the central part, analogously to the traditional plates, but in this case, provided with a front prolongation.

This prolongation is capable of carrying out an action (i.e. a reaction to the elastic counter-flexional deformation) downwards, localized in the front part of the ski, in correspondence to the shovel portion.

More particularly the front end of this prolongation is connected to the ski by means of a pin having a horizontal transversal axis (a hinge), which not only permits its free rotation (following the ski counter-flexional deformation) but also its longitudinal sliding.

This kind of connection:

- allows the free rotation of the shovel portion around said horizontal transversal axis,
- allows the longitudinal sliding of the front end of the prolongation with respect to the ski,
- carries out, therefore, exclusively a bilateral action in a vertical direction (from the top to the bottom and viceversa) limiting and controlling the displacements but not the flexional rotations of the shovel without causing any stiffening.

This is set forth in new independent claim 22, which replaces independent claims 18 and 19.

The previous action cited Boehm et al as the basis of a refusal under 35 USC 102(b).

U.S. Patent Number 5,704,628(Boehm et al) merely concerns a device for providing a ski with additional flexural stiffness in the transverse and longitudinal directions of the ski. The bar 7 of fig. 8 is articulated in 8 and therefore cannot carry out any vertical thrust on the point 9.

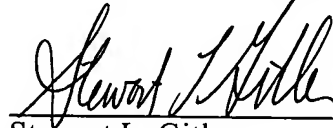
Likewise, US patent Number 5,447,322 (le Masson et al.) does not suggest or disclose a downhill ski with the features set forth in claim 22. further it explicitly does not disclose the connection of the free end the front promulgation top the bracket, or the fact that the end of the front prolongation being engaged with and movable along the horizontal slot, so that the end of the front prolongation is allowed to rotate and slide along said longitudinal slot.

No new matter has been added to the subject matter as claimed and it is respectfully requested that the claims as presented be allowed.

If any questions remain, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

A three month extension of time accompanies this response. If any additional fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,



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